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Shultz denies plane was on CIA mission

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News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Shultz yesterday dismissed claims by the Sandinista regime in Managua that a cargo plane shot down by Nicaragua was on a secret mission for the CIA.

"The people" who piloted the C-123 transport "were not from our military, were not from any U.S. agency, the CIA included," Shultz told reporters at the White House. "These are private citizens. This is not a governmental operation."

Nicaraguan officials insisted that the plane, packed with ammunition and supplies for antigovernment rebels, was part of a CIA operation aimed at overthrowing the Sandinista regime.

The plane crashed Sunday 35 miles north of Costa Rica and 91 miles southeast of Managua.

Alejandro Bendana, secretary general of the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, said:

"The facts are that there was a plane shot down, that it had an American crew in it. We're talking about a U.S. plane. We're not saying a U.S. Army plane but this is obviously a CIA operation with CIA operatives."

3 dead Americans

He described the three dead Americans as "U.S. citizens now dying in Mr. Ronald Reagan's war against Nicaragua. I think the American people are owed an explanation."

The Nicaraguan government identified a sole survivor as Eugene Hasenfus, 35, of Marinette, Wis.

Family members, who said the named was spelled

BROTHER'S COMMENT

Seeks 'adventure'

OSHKOSH, Wis.—Eugene Hasenfus, identified as the American shot down Sunday and captured by Nicaraguan troops, was "the type of guy who goes looking for adventure," his brother, William, said yesterday.

He couldn't say why his brother would be flying over Nicaragua. "As far as I knew, he worked for an air freight outfit out of Miami," William said. "He was in the Marines about 20 years ago."

Nicaragua downed the plane inside its national territory, saying it had captured one American and three Americans had been killed in the crash.

Nicaragua said the captured American had identified himself as a U.S. military adviser in El Salvador but U.S. officials denied any connection with the mission.

United Press International

Hasenfus, said he worked for a Florida air freight company.

The Pentagon said a person by the name of Eugene Hasenfus had received an honorable discharge in 1965 from the Marine Corps after five years of active duty.

CIA representative Kathy Pherson said in Washington: "The guy doesn't work for us and CIA is not involved....

There are congressional restrictions on assistance to the contras and we do not break those restrictions."

President Reagan has asked for \$100 million in military and economic aid for the rebels fighting to overthrow the Sandinistas.

The appeal, which was passed in the Senate and the House, is awaiting final approval.